

E. A. R.
LIAISON

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

TOKYO BUREAU

23 June 1954

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[redacted]
Chief, FBIS
2430 "E" Street, N.W.
Washington 25, D.C.

Subject: Tokyo Bureau Use of
NHK Scripts

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Dear [redacted]

Your 11 June letter expressing BBC concern over this Bureau's use of NHK script material has been received.

The Home and International Service scripts are all received by this Bureau after they have been broadcast. In other words, they are not in any sense previews of proposed broadcasts, but are hand-outs of material, in English translation, as it was actually used over the air. I have the word of Mr. Yamazaki, Chief of the NHK International Service, that no script is ever furnished FBIS unless it has been broadcast.

Soon after my arrival in Tokyo, I shared BBC's concern in this matter. It was at that time that I received Mr. Yamazaki's assurances. As an extra check, each editor prior to filing a script item telephones NHK to verify the beam and language, and, incidentally, to make certain it was actually broadcast. Usually Tamaru or a native Japanese monitor makes the call at the editor's request. This check system was inaugurated last February and has been faithfully followed by Bureau editors since that time.

It should be noted that very little indeed of this script material is ever filed to Washington. We average only two or three items, usually political or economic commentaries, per month. In addition to wire copy, we do airmail perhaps another four or five items weekly. Because of our saturation coverage of Kyodo and Jiji material, the vast majority of Japanese domestic radio output is outdated. NHK and independent Japanese broadcasters lean heavily on the two news agencies for their source material. Only an occasional commentary merits our editorial selection.

To try to check Japanese radio broadcasting against the scripts would be operationally unfeasible for this Bureau. It would mean that a great number of shows would have to be recorded ahead of time on the off-chance that an editor might later see fit to select a script item from one of these shows. Our small staff would be hard pressed to do this.

Granted, we are making an act of faith in NHK's veracity. Yet, there is no apparent reason to doubt the word of NHK in this matter. If, however, you feel our present policy is unsatisfactory, we shall make every effort to rearrange our operational procedures in order to check actual broadcasts.

Sincerely,



Bureau Chief

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